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SIDMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

BY

Dr. J. SHELDON WITHERS.

Statistics.

Area, 1,600 acres.

Census Population, 5,569.

Estimated Population 1925, = 5,093.

Number of inhabited Houses, = 1,371.

Number of Families in Separate Occupiers, = 1,650.

Rateable Value : on Hereditaments £36,037-10s. ; on Land £1,983.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £155.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	Total	M.	F.	
Births	62	30	32	Birth Rate = 12.
Deaths	58	23	35	Death Rate = 11·3.

Deaths of infants under 1 year per 1000 births = 0

,, from Whooping Cough = 0

,, ,, Measles = 0

,, ,, Diarrhœra (under 2 years.) = 0

There has been no excessive or unusual mortality.

Notifiable Diseases during the year 1925.

	Total Cases	Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox	0		0
Diptheria	3		0
Scarlet Fever	2		0
Puerperal Fever	0		0
Pneumonia	4	3	0
Chicken-Pox	68		0

All the Cases of Chicken-Pox were seen and identified.

Tubercolosis,

Respiratory	Other Forms
9	1

These Cases were visited and suitable precautions taken.

	New Cases.				Deaths Pulmonary	
Age Periods.	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 10 years						
10 ,,						
15 ,,						
20 ,,	1					
25 ,,	1	1		2		1
35 ,,						
45 ,,		2			1	1
55 ,,	1		2		1	1
65 & upwards						

Total Deaths under 1 year			4
,,	,,	1 to 2 years	0
,,	,,	2 to 3 ,,	0
,,	,,	3 to 4 ,,	0
,,	,,	5 to 10 ,,	2

Total Deaths		10 to 15	years	0
,,	,,	15 to 20	,,	0
,,	,,	20 to 45	,,	6
,,	,,	45 to 65	,,	16
,,	,,	65 & over	,,	20
,,	,,	80 to 94	,,	10

Hospitals.

1. A Cottage Hospital of 14 beds.

2. A Fever Hospital at Whipton near Exeter. This is supported by local contributions, and provided by the Devon County Council. We have the right to its use if accommodation is available.

Ambulance Facilities.

For infectious cases we have a Trailer which can be attached to the back of a Motor Car.

Causes of Sickness.

There has been little serious illness, and none so far as I know worthy of special notice.

Midwives.

There is a fully trained midwife employed by the Maternity and Infant Welfare Centre towards whose maintenance the Local Authority contributes £5 annually.

Treatment Centres.

There is a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre which, apart from the grant of the Ministry of Health, is dependent upon Private Subscriptions. The centre is managed by a Committee of which your Medical Officer is Chairman.

Laboratory Work.

Bacteriological Outfits are supplied by the County M. O. H. We however keep in stock Diphtheria Antitoxin which is available for poor people without charge.

Slaugher-houses.

10 visits were paid.

They are kept in a cleanly state for the most part.

Dairies, Cowsheds and farms.

31 visits were paid.

Houses.

In consequence of the flooding of houses by the inroads of the sea, during the autumn I paid nearly 100 visits. Where the residents were poor help was given in the formof a supply of coal.

I have inspected 206 houses during the year, going into every room.

As I said a year ago there is a serious shortage of houses suitable for the working class. There are many which fall much below a modern standard, and even in these I have noted several cases of overcrowding with which I have been powerless to deal.

I have urged the Council to build, but the serious injury to the Esplanade and the consequent large increase of the rates naturally makes them anxious to avoid further expenses

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